(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to modernize 25 tentatively selected non-metro airports to world class standards in phases with focus on airside and city side development and enhancement of non-aeronautical revenue. Indian Financial Consultant (IFC) and Global Technical Advisor (GTA) have been appointed to conduct techno-economic feasibility study of 10 identified airports to evolve an appropriate model based on viability of the project. The action for appointment of these consultants for remaining 15 airport in Phase II is in hand. Further action will be taken after receipt of the studies.

Modifications in air agreement with US

16. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government and United States have signed an open sky agreement similar to those the US signed with other countries;

(b) whether Government have sought certain modifications to ensure that the benefits should not go to the US Airlines alone;

(c) whether the US has agreed that the benefit will be given to the Indian Airlines also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several modifications were carried out in the standard draft keeping in view the overall interest of our civil aviation sector.

(c) and (d) The benefits arising out of this Agreement will accrue equally to the airlines of both countries. Designated Airlines of both countries would have unlimited access to all points of call in each others territory and would also have unlimited intermediate and beyond 5th freedom rights. It is expected that airlines of both countries would benefit as the traffic size on Indo-US route is very high.

Modernisation of International Airports

17. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since reconsidered the question of modernisation of International Airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore etc., through private participation and the terms for such participation;

(b) if so, what decisions have been taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Delhi & Mumbai Airport: Based on the decision of the Government taken in September 2003, the International airports in Delhi and Mumbai are being restructured and modernized through the Joint Venture Route with Public Private Participation (PPP). In the Joint Venture Company (JVC), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Government PSUs will be holding 26% equity and balance 74% will be held by private sector partners. Government in June 2004 *inter-alia* decided that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Joint Venture Companies would be capped at 49%. Accordingly, Expressions of Interest (EOI) were amended. Nine bidders have been short-listed on the basis of amended EOI. Action for issue of Request for Proposal (RFP) document is at hand.

There was no reconsideration on the terms of private participation as regards to Bangalore International Airport Limited.

Introduction of A-320 service in the Raipur sector

†18. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of passengers per flight during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 on air routes of Raipur-Delhi-Raipur and Raipur-Mumbai-Raipur sectors;

(b) the number of passengers per year during the years from 2000-2001 to 2003-2004 in these sectors;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.